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Industrialist David M. Sowle Dies

Sudden Attack Claims Life Of Civic Leader

David Moore Sowle, superintendent of industrial relations for the National Supply Co. and one of Torrance's most active leaders, died at his home, 237 Via Los Miradores, early yesterday following a heart attack. A native of Wisconsin, he was 47 years old.

Mr. Sowle had been with the local company since Sept. 16, 1946, when he joined the staff as an industrial relations analyst. He rose through supervisory positions and was made head of the department on Sept. 16, 1950, just four years after coming to Torrance. He held the position until his death.

In addition to his important position with the National Supply Co., Mr. Sowle was vice president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, member of the Torrance Kiwanis Club, and had just completed a term as chairman of the board of managers for the Torrance YMCA.

A member of the Masonic Order, he belonged to the Al Malakiah Shrine, the Peace Officers Shrine Club of Los Angeles, and had been recently elected to the Temple Guard.

Mr. Sowle also served as a member of the Governor's Committee on Unemployment Insurance, the Los Angeles Merchants and Manufacturers Assn. and the Personnel and Industrial Relations Assn. At National Supply, he was a member of the Management Club and the Employees' Club.

He leaves the widow, Dorothy; two daughters, Mrs. Marilyn Bean of San Lorenzo, and Beverly, a Torrance High School student; mother, Mrs. Dora Moore Sowle, and a sister, Mrs. Jo Smith, both of San Fernando. Two grandchildren also survive him.

Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon at 2 in the Stone and Myers Chapel, Rev. John Taylor, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Torrance, and members of the Torrance Masonic Lodge will officiate at the last rites. Burial will be in Pacific Crest Cemetery.



DAVID M. SOWLE
... Dies Suddenly

LA TO VOTE TUESDAY ON RECREATION

Shoestring Strip and Harbor City residents will vote Tuesday on a proposed \$35,500,000 city-wide recreation program for Los Angeles.

Included in the program are zoological gardens and botanical displays in Elysian Park; construction of 22 new parks and playgrounds, 18 swimming pools, 18 community clubhouses, 20 adult leisure centers, and eight new golf courses; and improvement of existing parks.

Projects in this area which would be improved include Normandale playground, which would get additional landscaping, ground improvements, water system, and playground equipment; Rosecrans Playground, which would receive ground improvement, water system, and playground equipment; and a new park in Harbor City, which would be complete with clubhouse equipment. Ten San Pedro parks would be improved and a new swimming pool built.

The second proposition on the ballot would provide for \$4,500,000 for construction of an outdoor stadium—possibly accommodating major league baseball—in Elysian Park.

Planners Pick Lomita for Site Of Civic Center

Lomita was recommended Tuesday as the site for the County's new branch civic center to serve the communities of Lomita, Lomita Pines, Miralote, Rolling Hills, Palos Verdes, Carson, and Dominguez.

The recommendation was made by the County Regional Planning Commission following a thorough study by its staff of the needs of the seven communities.

In its recommendations to the County Supervisors, Burton W. Chace and other board members, the Commission suggested that the new facility be located either on Lomita Blvd. or Pacific Hwy. in the vicinity of Narbonne Ave.

Covering about four acres, the proposed center would contain a County building department, health department, and library.

The Commission also recommended that provisions for a future sheriff's office be made. The study had been ordered by Chace, who stated that funds were included in the County's preliminary 1955-56 budget for the acquisition of land and preparation of plans for the building—the budget contains \$80,000 for property acquisition and \$25,000 for architectural fees.

Water Board Hearing Set

A hearing by the Water Pollution Board into the effect of oil sumps on the underground water supply will be held in the Council Chamber of the Torrance City Hall this morning at 9, it was announced here yesterday.

Linne Larsen, chairman of the California State Water Pollution Board No. 4, will preside at the meeting.

Mail Box Lifted

A mail box was stolen Sunday night from the residence of Virginia Murphy, 3327 W. 190th St., police officers were informed.



VANDALS HIT SCHOOL... Trying to remove some of the paint splattered on the Torrance High School Science Building is Bill Schultz, school employee, as student Ronnie Waller and Adult School Principal R. E. Collins look on. Vandals threw blue, gray, and yellow paint on the High School, the City Hall, and the Torrance Roller Dome sometime over the week end.

See Agreement In Building Tiff

Construction of 19 homes in a subdivision south of Eldorado and east of Madrona which was halted by the Council last week got the go-ahead again Tuesday on the condition that the developers agree to bear half of the cost of installing a drain under the tract to take storm waters

from seven privately built homes along Eldorado.

Leon Savitch, representing Homes Savings & Loan Assn., developers of the subdivision, agreed to payment of \$500 toward installation of the drain, but Attorney C. T. Rippey, who represented the homeowners along Eldorado, said his clients felt that this was insufficient and that the developers or city should bear a greater portion of the costs.

The dispute arose several weeks ago when developers of the tract, in grading for the nearly 200 homes to be built in the area, raised the level of the ground behind the homes on Eldorado several feet.

Flood Problem Feared Residents who had built homes along Eldorado, some at a cost nearing \$30,000, protested that the elevated land halted the natural flow of water to the south. Inasmuch as the privately built homes were below the level of Eldorado, this would create a flooding problem in the area during rainy weather, the Council was told.

Representatives for the developer maintained that the historical flow of water was to the west, not south.

Engineers' reports substantiating both views have been presented to the Councilmen.

Approval Conditioned Attempts to reach a compromise on the matter without taking the case to court will be successful if the Council's recommendation that both groups split the cost of the drain is accepted. It is to be less than 300 feet long. The drain would take excess waters from the

Layoff Rumor Is Belittled

A rumor that the Torrance plant of Douglas Aircraft Co. will effect large-scale layoffs of personnel tomorrow as the first step toward a complete shutdown was denied Wednesday by an official of the company.

However, the official did acknowledge that discussions are in progress between Douglas and the Navy, which may result in "adjustments."

Whatever adjustments are made will not be so serious as a complete shutdown of the plant, the official intimated.

"No one knows at this time what is going to happen," he said, since the discussions are in an advanced stage.

LEGALITY QUESTIONED

Council Delays Gravel Decision

Legal doubts as to the validity of a request for variance now on file before the Torrance City Council on behalf of the Torrance Sand and Gravel Co. were raised by Atty. Walter N. Anderson during argument in opposition to the request before the Council Tuesday night.

During an hour-long public hearing on the matter, Anderson raised the question of ownership of the property under consideration for a variance, and Thomas Block, one of the operators of the gravel mining business, admitted that he and his partner leased the land in question.

Anderson referred to the specific provisions of the city's land use ordinance which states that the owners of the property may petition for a variance. It makes no provision for a variance petition submitted by leasees of the property, he claimed.

The attorney said he was representing most of the residents

Councilmen Nix Parking in Park

Proposals that El Prado Park and the lots behind the City Hall be used for off-street parking were shouted down in the City Council here Tuesday night, and the plan was termed an outlaw move that did not get the clearance of the sponsoring group's board of directors.

Submitted to the Council last week by the Retail Merchants Assn., a division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, the proposal was brought up before a Council Chamber packed with residents of El Prado adjoining the park who were prepared to battle any attempts to convert the park into parking lots.

Letter Assailed Councilman Mervin Schwab, a member of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, said the letter had never been cleared with the Chamber board as it should have been.

"I have even been accused of backing this plan," Schwab said. He indicated that he wanted no part of it. Councilman Nicholas O. Dralle came to Schwab's support and said that he, too, had been accused of backing the plan. Councilman Willys G. Blount, whose residence on El Prado faces the park, indicated he wanted no part of the plan.

Legality Questioned. The suggestion submitted to the Council by Carl C. Duncan, president of the Retail Merchants, asked that the trees and grass be retained on the perimeter of the park.

City Attorney James M. Hall cast a legal shadow on the proposal by stating that the city held easement for the park only and could not legally convert it to parking.

The matter was denied and ordered returned to the merchants.

Second Polio Shots Await More Vaccine

The second series of polio shots in this area halted Tuesday, with more than 1000 children vaccinated, according to Dr. Benjamin A. Kogan, local health officer.

The shots in Los Angeles County all stopped the same day because no more approved vaccine is available at the present time, Dr. Kenneth Sutherland, of the County Office, indicated yesterday. Shots will start again when more vaccine arrives.

The first series of shots on nearly 10,000 children in this district was completed last week. Locally, Riviera, Seaside, and South Bay Christian School children received the second series of shots, with other (Continued on Page 17)

Chamber Adopts Policy Covering Public Matters

Hereafter all communications of any division or committee of the Chamber of Commerce relating to public policy, will have to be cleared through the Board of Directors, it was decided Monday afternoon at the regular semi-monthly meeting held in the Chamber headquarters.

Action of the board was touched off by the controversial letter sent the City Council by the Retail Merchants Assn., a division of the Chamber, suggesting the use of the residential park for off-street parking. "It is not my intention to have it appear as though we are chastising any one division or committee of this organization," President Paul D. Loranger asserted. "But I think this is as good a time as any to have the situation resolved by action of this board. It is my opinion that all communications relating to public policy should be cleared through this board."

Issue Debated Some debate followed with Director Paul Diamond contending that the Retail Merchants were a division and simply were following precedents established many years ago. He also maintained that the Board already had gone on record as being in favor of additional off-street parking and the retailers were only following up on the project.

Director E. S. Karlow, representing Kettler Knolls, introduced the following resolution: "Resolved that this board adopt a policy that all divisions and/or committees of the Chamber be required to submit to the Board of Directors for approval any matter implicating the Chamber of Commerce or affecting the community in general."

Unanimous The resolution received unanimous approval after a second by Director Paul Roettger of Seaside Ranchos. In their communication to the council, the retailers urged that the lot directly back of (Continued on Page 17)

FOR NEW HIGH SCHOOL

Schools Given Federal Grant

Federal funds totaling \$858,690 will be given to the Torrance Unified School District by the Federal Government

soon under terms of Public Law 815. Superintendent J. H. Hull was informed Monday. The money will be given for

use on South Torrance High School, which officials hope will be at least partially ready by September, 1957. The remainder of the money for the \$2.5 million building will come from a \$10,000,000 bond if it is passed by the voters on June 7.

Money from Public Law 815 is given at the rate of \$630 per student whose parents are employed by the government or firms with government contracts. In the Torrance district, 1363 students fall in this category.

Beside South Torrance High School, other schools on the current building schedule are North Torrance High, Newton, and Steele Elementary Schools. Plans for Arlington and Sepulveda Elementary Schools have been approved by the School Board, but bids have not been let as yet.

The bond issue money if approved by the voters, will go toward the construction of Arlington and Sepulveda Schools, as well as several other new elementary schools, now in various stages of planning.

Some grading and work on drainage problems has been done on the South Torrance High School site, but no plans have been drawn.

Doctor's Bag Stolen

A medical bag was stolen from his car and hub caps removed Saturday night, while the vehicle was parked in front of his residence, 117 Via Viviera, apartment 117, according to Dr. Ritter Ansel.

YMCA FUND COLLECTION \$3873 SHORT OF GOAL

With about half of the church workers reporting their collections for the YMCA, an additional \$335 has been raised toward the current budget, Secretary Stan Roberts said Tuesday.

With the aid of the Torrance Ministerial Assn., the church lay workers had sought to collect \$4200 to make up the deficit in the YMCA budget for the next year.

The reporting workers said they had contacted 108 persons and gotten pledges from 54 for \$335. Reports from other workers are still out, and some contributions are still being made.

This brings the total money raised to \$8,127, compared with an estimated \$12,000 needed for next year's budget.

Until this year, the Los Angeles YMCA has made up the deficit of the local YMCA, but indicated that it could no longer continue to do so. It has subsidized the local program with more than \$10,000.

Los Angeles officials indicated that the local YMCA might become a branch of some neighboring YMCA or curtail its program considerably in order to stay within the budget.

The Rev. Paul Wenske, president of the Ministerial Assn., urged persons who had not been contacted to mail contributions to the YMCA Building, 2080 Washington Blvd., in Torrance.

Residents To Discuss Gravel Pit

A meeting of residents living on Winlock Rd. and other Pacific Hills streets has been called for 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 31, it was announced here yesterday by William Cameron, who said the group would discuss the variance request now before the city on behalf of the Torrance Sand and Gravel Co. The meeting will be held at the home of Lee O'Malley, at 2942 Winlock Road.